

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

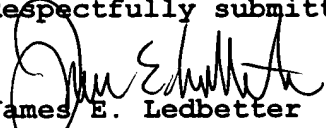
Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 4-8 and 12-16 are allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 4 (now canceled), and independent claim 9 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 12 (now canceled). Claims 5, 6, 13, and 14 have been canceled because they are identical to claims 7, 8, 15 and 16 respectively. Therefore, allowance of claims 1 and 9 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Date: March 25, 2004
JEL/DWW/att

Respectfully submitted,

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